

The purpose of this log is to document all photographs taken during a trip, including the **photographs required of each marine mammal, sea turtle, and sea bird taken in the vessel's gear**. In addition to incidental takes, photographs should be taken of sharks, sturgeons, rays, and any rare or hard-to-identify fish. Photographs are an important part of the identification process. Not only do they aid in the distinction between species, but in marine mammals, they also help in the determination of sex.

The exposed disposable camera or roll of film must be labelled clearly with trip identifiers, dates landed, and roll number. Complete a new log for each disposable camera or roll of film used. A copy of this log must accompany every camera/roll forwarded for processing. If there is more than one trip on the same camera/roll, a photocopy of this log must be included in each trip's data.

If lighting conditions permit, shoot a series of photographs depicting the vessel's gear types, fishing operations, and/or observer duties. These subjects are very useful for observer training. However, for confidentiality purposes, photographs should not be taken of vessel names, vessel numbers, or crew members.

When photographing incidental takes of marine mammals, sea turtles, and sea birds, photograph any unusual marks and scars, location of gear entanglement (preferably with gear still attached), and characteristics of the animal which can be used for species identification (reference outline below). Place a piece of paper with the observer/trip identifier, the animal's tag number, and the date on it next to the animal's body, and include it in every photo. Do not cover important features of the animal's body with the paper. If the paper is wet down, it will be less apt to blow away. If time/conditions preclude this, try to include the carcass tag (with the tag number showing) in the photograph.

Even if you are able to identify a species, photograph the animal, especially if the specimen cannot be frozen and brought back whole. The photos will be reviewed by experts for positive identification. Include an object in the photograph, *i.e.* a shoe, clipboard, pen, or the carcass tag, to indicate the relative size of the animal. In order to make the most of the photographs

taken, use the following guidelines. This is especially important for hard-to-identify species.

MARINE MAMMALS: Photograph the head and body of each marine mammal individually. Additionally:

Whales: close-up of head (side-angle or top-angle), flipper and dorsal fin position & shape, fluke shape.
Right Whales: callosity photos.
Humpback Whales: ventral fluke photo, if possible.
Belly-up floaters: photo of the throat or belly grooves, or absence thereof.

close-up of head (side-angle), coloration pattern on side, distinctive blazes or stripes, shape of dorsal fin (side-angle).

Seals: whole body from above, head on; whole body from the side; whole underside; head profile (side-angle), rear flippers; back coloration pattern.

SEA TURTLES: Photograph the both the carapace and the plastron of each turtle individually. Additionally, photograph the head shape (top-angle), and obtain a close-up of the head (top- and side-angles).

SEA BIRDS: Photograph each sea bird individually when possible, or grouped when there are many.

SHARKS: Photograph the head shape, mouth and under side of snout and gills, and placement of all fins (preferably before being cut off).

STURGEONS: Photograph the head, mouth and underside of snout, barbel length. Additionally, photograph the anal region to show presence or absence of anal scutes.

OTHER FISH/RAYS/CRUSTACEANS: Refer to Peterson's field guides for identifying characteristics of that species type. The guides' drawings indicate important features with small arrows.

If photographing multiple-day trips (trips lasting for more than one day), do not photograph more than one trip per roll of film. Preferably, use the 35 mm cameras, and not disposable cameras, on multiple-day trips. If there are a few shots left on the roll at the end of the trip, cover the lens and use up the film so that it may be removed from the camera.

If photographing day trips (trips which go out and return on the same day), up to four trips may be photographed on the same disposable camera or roll of film. Place a spacer photograph between each trip. This can be accomplished by placing your hand over the lens or taking a photograph of the deck, water, *etc.* Every trip on the camera/roll must be recorded in the Header section, and the corresponding frame numbers for each trip should be clearly indicated.

Keep cameras and film away from excessive heat, moisture, salt, and vapors. Don't keep partially used rolls of film or disposable cameras for extended periods. Exposed color film is more susceptible to harmful influences than unexposed film, and should be forwarded for processing as soon as possible.

INSTRUCTIONS

For instructions on completing the Header fields **A** and **B**, refer to the Common Haul Log Data section of the NEFSC Observer Program Manual.

1. GEAR TYPE(S): Record, in text, the type of gear used by the vessel during the trip(s) as recorded on the Vessel and Trip Information Log. If it is a multiple gear trip, record all gear types used on the trip.

Example: Pelagic Longline.

2. CAMERA/ROLL NUMBER: Record the number you assign to the disposable camera or roll used. Start with "1" for the first camera/roll used on this trip, and continue numbering sequentially throughout the trip for the following cameras/rolls used on this trip. When a new trip is started (with a new roll of film), start numbering again with "1".

PHOTO INFORMATION

3. FRAME NUMBER: Preprinted frame numbers are provided on the log. Record the photograph subject on the line with the corresponding frame number. The frame number is displayed on the camera.

NOTE: Disposable cameras display the number of photographs remaining in the camera after you take the photo. Therefore, for disposable cameras, record your first photo at FRAME NUMBER 23 (or FRAME NUMBER 26, for 27 exposure cameras) and continue listing up to 0.

NOTE: For 35 mm cameras, begin listing photos at FRAME NUMBER 1 and continue listing down to 24 or 25.

4. HAUL NUMBER: Record the haul number assigned to the haul in which the photo is taken, or which corresponds to the animal being photographed, if applicable. This number must agree with the number recorded for this haul on the corresponding Haul Log.

5. TAG NUMBER(S): Record the **complete alphanumeric number** of the tag(s) that the observer attaches to the animal(s) being photographed and/or that are already on the animal(s) when taken. The tag number(s) recorded on this log must agree with the tag number(s) recorded for this animal on the Individual Animal Log, or the Marine Mammal, Sea Turtle, and Sea Bird Incidental Take Log.

6. SUBJECT: Briefly describe the species or subject, and/or the important feature(s) in the photograph, on the line corresponding to the preprinted frame number.

Example: Harbor Porpoise head shot showing scars.

7. OBS/TRIP ID: Record your three character Observer Identifier combined with the three character Trip Number and one character Trip Extension assigned to you for this trip.

8. DATE: Record the month, day, and year that this photo is taken.